

NH Monthly Interagency Consultation (IAC) Meeting Notes – August 13, 2015

Attendees:

Bill Watson, Carol Macuch, Linda Dusenberry, William Rose – NHDOT, Don Cooke – EPA, Chris Scheiner – SRPC, Julie Chen - SNHPC, Dave Walker – RPC, Leigh Levine – FHWA

August Minor Revisions:

Much discussion initiated by MPO staff regarding the many versions of modifications (minor revisions and amendments) that are typically forwarded by NHDOT, inconsistencies on some projects included in this minor revision versus actions already taken by MPOs on their TIPs for pending STIP Amendment 1, and the resulting frustration of having to duplicate work, and trying to explain what is going on to TAC and Policy Committees, etc. Examples discussed included the FLAP project and Salem 16031 project.

For one example, an MPO is being asked to approve a minor revision to a project phase that isn't included in their TIP anymore, based on their approval action for TIP Amendment 1. FHWA agreed that MPOs should not be processing minor revisions on projects/phases that they have removed from their TIPs, and said that there is some discretion at FHWA to authorize funds for projects in lieu of the minor revision process for modifications within minor revision thresholds. FHWA also suggested that MPOs could take the same approach with their TIPs as NHDOT does with the STIP – roll up the minor revisions in the subsequent amendment or update versus publishing a new TIP with each minor revision.

NHDOT noted that due to MPO meeting schedules, there have always been timing issues as discussed today, and also stated that the difficulty and extra time it has taken to process Amendment 1 has exacerbated these issues. NHDOT also noted that the first amendment after a full update to the STIP is typically very large due to the extended comment period, etc. in processing the full update.

An MPO staff person suggested that it would be helpful if the revision report included documentation explaining where the project information is coming from, and FHWA verified that MPOs processed the correct amendment version for Amendment 1.

For project 10418L, MPO staff requested that documentation be revised by NHDOT to identify the transit operator, which was believed to be Boston Express. NHDOT also noted that for the Statewide RCTRL project, "Betterment" funds shouldn't be documented for years subsequent to 2015.

GACIT Update:

NHDOT said that the Department has proposed adding \$40 million in projects from the RPC/MPO recommendations to the draft Ten Year Plan. There have been 12 or 13 locations identified for hearings, and they are waiting on Councilors Wheeler and Sununu to confirm. By August 26th, the dates should be confirmed. NHDOT also mentioned that their Office of Federal Compliance (OFC) will be involved in

screening the public information process, and that extensive draft Ten Year Plan documentation is now available on NHDOT's website.

Other:

FHWA staff notified participants that their financial management system (FMIS) is due to be updated with the new federal fiscal year in October, and as a result, there will be a longer period of down time for the system than usual, which affects the billing process. Some important anticipated dates to keep in mind are September 18th, when the current FMIS shuts down, and October 26-31, when the new FMIS becomes available.

Next meeting is confirmed for September 1st.

Submitted by – Leigh Levine, FHWA NH Division